

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05

/070 W

-----084372 232049Z /73

R 230932Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2987

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, SHUM, BC, SF, UK

SUBJECT: SOLDIER INDICTED FOR MURDER IN TULI BLOCK INCIDENT

REF: GABORONE 2618 AND PREVIOUS

1. PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THAT BDF LIEUTENANT OMPATILE TSWAIBE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE MURDERS OF WILLIAM DE BEER, MICHAEL ARDEN AND NICHOLAS LOVE. THE THREE WERE KILLED MARCH 29 WHILE IN THE CUSTODY OF A BOSTWANA DEFENSE FORCE PLATOON UNDER TSWAIBE'S COMMAND. UK EMBOFF BAGSHAW TOLD US AUGUST 20 THAT HIS EMBASSY CONSIDERS INDICTMENT OF TSWAIBE SUFFICIENT RESPONSE TO REPEATED UK REQUESTS FOR GOB ACTION ON TULI BLOCK INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO BAGSHAW, OUTCOME OF TRIAL IS NOT IMPORTANT; INDICTMENT HAS ALREADY REMOVED IRRITANT IN UK/GOB RELATIONS AND REAFFIRMED BOTSWANA'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. COMMENT: DECISION TO FILE MURDER CHARGES AGAINST TSWAIBE MUST HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY DIFFICULT IN VIEW OF GROWING NATIONWIDE POPULARITY OF BDF. MOREOVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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RADICAL OPPOSITION PARTIES MAY USE INDICTMENT AS PRETEXT TO CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT FOR KNUCKLING UNDER TO FOREIGN PRESSURE AND APPREHENSIONS OF RESIDENT WHITES. IN VIEW OF BOTSWANA'S REIGOROUS AND FAIR COURTROOM PROCEDURES, WE BELIEVE TRIAL WILL THROW ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON JUST WHAT HAPPENED IN TULI BLOCK INCIDENT. BUT INDICTMENT IN ITSELF UNDERSCORES BOTSWANA'S COMMITMENT

TO HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW, AND NON-RACIALISM; IT  
ALSO ABSOLVES GOB OF CHARGES (PARTICULARLY FROM UK  
SOURCES) THAT IT WAS ATTEMPTING TO COVER UP THE "LOVE  
AFFAIR".  
ALBERTI

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MURDER, COURT DECISIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 23 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014